

To: The Federal Communications Commission
From: David Zolnier, CIO, Indian Prairie School District #204, Naperville/Aurora, Illinois
Re: CC Docket No. 02-06
Date: September 11, 2008

The **Indian Prairie School District #204** hereby lends its strong support to the proposed addition of "telephone broadcast messaging" to the list of services eligible for support under the schools and libraries ("E-rate") program.

It is undeniable that improving communications between and among educators, students, and parents can play a vital role in improving educational performance in schools as well as maintaining a safe educational environment for our students. Telephone broadcast messaging offers significant advantages and benefits over the less efficient means which schools traditionally used to reach out to students and parents, such as hand-delivered written notices and manual phone tree messages.

For example, telephone broadcast messaging is typically used as a means of contacting parents regarding absent or truant students, thereby facilitating increased classroom attendance. Telephone broadcast messaging can also be used to notify and inform parents of testing schedules, parent/teacher conferences, and to otherwise increase participation by parents in their children's education.

A further and significant benefit of telephone broadcast messaging is that it can provide an important **and timely** emergency response resource in the event of weather-related events, health or other civil emergencies, or other incidents that require schools to lock down or transfer students to safe locations. **There is not a better solution available than a telephone broadcast system to rapidly expedite these types communication to our families and community.**

In enacting the E-rate program in 1996, Congress recognized that many schools and libraries have limited resources that constrain their access to emerging technologies that can enhance and support their educational mission. Telephone broadcast messaging, which allows schools to more efficiently and effectively communicate with students and parents, is a prime example of such an emerging technology and should be included within the E-rate program's list of eligible services.

Sincerely,

David Zolnier
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